

we share, that such metropolitan cities as San Francisco, Oakland, Portland, Seattle, and Spokane, individually would meet the "primarily dependent" requirement, as heretofore interpreted and applied by this Department. The extent to which any part of them would have to be included with an additional area that is "dependent" in order to constitute a dependent unit including the city is a matter of judgment requiring consideration of all pertinent factors. If you desire to establish such a vast area as that proposed, there should be excluded metropolitan areas, resorts, agricultural communities and other areas not primarily dependent upon the sale of National Forest timber or other forest products.

Even though it is determined that a community is "primarily dependent", it must also be determined that maintenance of community stability cannot effectively be secured by following the usual procedure in selling National Forest timber, that is, through competitive bidding. This is another determination which may have the practical effect of limiting the size of a dependent community area.

Question 2: In connection with a public hearing for establishing a Federal unit, you asked our advice as to the minimum requirements of section 5 of the act in respect to notices to landowners.

You say that our office has heretofore advised that the Forest Service give notice by registered or certified mail to each landowner within the exterior boundaries of a proposed Federal Sustained Yield Unit before conducting a hearing. We understand that heretofore such units involved small numbers of private owners. You also say that the necessity for such action seems questionable since private lands within a Federal Sustained Yield Unit are not affected by its establishment and since the language of section 5 requiring advance notice to included landowners appears to be directed toward establishment of cooperative units and cooperative agreements. You indicate it would be a large and time-consuming task to compile lists of all landowners within the 13 National Forests proposed in the petition, and the cost of such listing, together with the certified mailing charges, could easily run to \$10,000 or more.